

Message Text

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SUBJECT: 1978 NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE ON ENVIRON-
MENTAL EDUCATION, WASHINGTON, MARCH 28-30, 1978

REF: PARIS 18473

1. THE SUBJECT CONFERENCE WAS ORGANIZED BY THE ALLIANCE
FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION, A NATIONAL ORGANIZATION
REPRESENTING THIRTY-THREE NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS.
IT WAS HOSTED BY THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION, THE
AMERICAN FOREST INSTITUTE AND THE NATIONAL EDUCATION
ASSOCIATION.

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2. EIGHTY-SEVEN PARTICIPANTS REVIEWED THE RECOMMENDATIONS
OF PAST CONFERENCES AND DEVELOPED SPECIFIC ACTION RECOM-
MENDATIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A NATIONAL STRATEGY.
SPECIAL ATTENTION WAS GIVEN TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
MEMBER STATES THAT CAME OUT OF THE UNESCO-UNEP INTERGOVERN-
MENTAL CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION HELD IN
TBILISI, USSR LAST OCTOBER.

3. DR. MARY F. BERRY, ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE, WHO HAD LED THE U.S. DELEGATION TO THE FOREGOING CONFERENCE, GAVE AN ADDRESS AT THE OPENING PLENARY SESSION. SHE SPOKE ON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE TO THE EDUCATIONAL COMMUNITY IN THE UNITED STATES, THE ROLE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN IMPLEMENTING ITS RECOMMENDATIONS AND THE NEED TO NURTURE AND PRESERVE THE "SPIRIT OF TBILISI." OTHER MEMBERS OF THE U.S. DELEGATION ALSO HIGHLIGHTED CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE UNESCO CONFERENCE AND PARTICIPATED IN THE DISCUSSIONS THAT FOLLOWED.

4. IN DEVELOPING A NATIONAL STRATEGY THE CONFEREES DIVIDED INTO FIVE WORKING GROUPS TO DISCUSS: THE FEDERAL ROLE, STATE LEGISLATION, STATE LEVEL NETWORKING, TEACHER INSERVICE EDUCATION AND THE ACCESSIBILITY AND DISSEMINATION OF MATERIALS. EACH GROUP DEVELOPED RECOMMENDATIONS AND THEN THOUGHT THROUGH, AND SPECIFIED IN THEIR REPORTS, THE OBSTACLES TO BE ENCOUNTERED IN IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND STRATEGIES FOR OVERCOMING THEM. THEY ALSO MADE CONCRETE SUGGESTIONS REGARDING THE ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY, PRACTICAL TIME-LINES AND PROCEDURES FOR MONITORING THEIR IMPLEMENTATION. SUBSEQUENT ACTIVITIES OF TASK FORCES ON THE FEDERAL AND STATE LEVEL HAVE BEEN DIRECTED TOWARD THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THESE RECOMMENDATIONS.

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5. SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS:

(1) THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION UNDER THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF EDUCATION.

(2) THE ALLIANCE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION SHOULD DEVELOP A HIGHER PROFILE AND GREATER SUBSTANTIVE COMMITMENT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FROM ITS MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS.

(3) A COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP SHOULD BE STRENGTHENED AMONG ALLIANCE MEMBERS TO IMPLEMENT ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS.

(4) THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PRIORITIES AND A MORE EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION OF THE LARGE VARIETY OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION RELATED PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS WITHIN THE U.S. OFFICE OF EDUCATION.

(5) STATES SHOULD ADOPT LEGISLATION TO REQUIRE THE ESTAB-

LISHMENT OF AN OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION WITHIN THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND FINANCED THROUGH STATE FUNDS.

(6) STATE OFFICIALS SHOULD UTILIZE NETWORKS TO FACILITATE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION COMMUNICATION, DISSEMINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION.

(7) ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD BE MADE FOR REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE ALLIANCE TO MEET PERIODICALLY WITH THE FEDERAL INTER-AGENCY SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION (FICE).

(8) SEVERAL STATES WITHIN THE WESTERN REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION COUNCIL SHOULD EXPERIMENT IN DEVELOPING UNCLASSIFIED

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NETWORKS AND LINKAGES AMONG STATES AGENCIES DURING THE NEXT TWELVE MONTHS TO STRENGTHEN THE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION EFFORT.

(9) THE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION OF DHEW SHOULD EITHER PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THE STATE CONSULTANTS OR CONVENE THEM OCCASSIONALLY TO OBTAIN THEIR VIEWS.

(10) SUCCESSFUL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROJECTS FUNDED UNDER THE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ACT SHOULD BE VALIDATED AND ENTERED INTO THE NATIONAL DIFFUSION NETWORK

(11) THE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND THE ORGANIZATION OF STATE CONSULTANTS SHOULD ESTABLISH WORKING RELATIONSHIPS TO CLARIFY FEDERAL POLICY AND PROGRAM DIRECTION FOR THE STATE CONSULTANTS.

(12) THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION SHOULD IMPROVE ITS LIAISON WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN ANNUAL CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS.

(13) A STUDY SHOULD BE MADE TO ISOLATE THOSE COMPONENTS OF INSERVICE TRAINING THAT HAVE THE GREATEST ACTUAL OR POTENTIAL IMPACT UPON THE TEACHER.

(14) A SUSTAINED EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO INCORPORATE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION INTO THE "TEACHER CENTER" MOVEMENT.

(15) THE TBILISI GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION SHOULD BE FURTHER DELINEATED FOR USE BY TEACHERS.

(16) A STANDARD CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM FOR ENVIRONMENTAL UNCLASSIFIED

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EDUCATION SHOULD BE DEVELOPED TO PROVIDE A METHOD FOR
CATEGORIZING MATERIALS IN LIBRARIES AND RESOURCE CENTERS.
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